

Soldiers, Family, and Civilians of the Iron Eagle Brigade,

U.S. Army – Europe (USAREUR) will announce tomorrow the return of the 1st Armored Division's Aviation Brigade to the continental United States in FY 06. The Brigade returns to the United States at the direction of the Department of the Army, as part of the Army's conversion of aviation assets worldwide into Combat Aviation Brigades. Upon arrival at Fort Riley, Kansas, the Brigade will become the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), 1st Infantry Division.

Soldiers may be reassigned or reclassified, based on the Army's needs. Specifics as to which Soldiers will be reclassified, which Soldiers will remain assigned to their units and which Soldiers will be reassigned elsewhere in Germany or the United States will be resolved and discussed in detail with the affected Soldiers through the chain of command during the course of the coming months.

The entire command leadership is concerned about the disruption this action could cause to Soldiers, families and civilians and is committed to applying all available assets of the unit and the community to ensure the unit drawdown and reassignment of Soldiers is conducted smoothly. We do not have the complete information yet on what will happen to each Soldier and his or her family, but will provide it through the chain of command as soon as it becomes available.

I wish to emphasize to all Iron Eagle Soldiers, family members and civilian employees that you have played a very important role in Operations Iraqi, Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism. This action is part of the Department of Defense global rebasing and restationing initiative, as well as the transformation of USAREUR and the Army, and is being taken to ensure we have the force we need in the future to meet mission requirements.

The USAREUR leadership is committed to treating all members of the USAREUR family—Soldiers, family members and civilians—with dignity and respect throughout this process, and to maintaining a free and open flow of information to ensure all members of the USAREUR family are fully aware of the various actions and the services available to them.

Transforming the Brigade will be a very challenging process—we ask for everyone's support as we undertake this very important mission, which will result in Soldiers being stationed in the right places to meet the challenges facing our nation.

Thank you,

COL Bob Johnson